

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 063497
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY S/S:TMARTIN

APPROVED BY S/S:TMARTIN

S/S-O:MVKENNEDY

-----085525 122305Z /65

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 063497

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOGADISCIO 0501 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO ADDIS ABABA CAIRO DJIBOUTI JIDDA NAIROBI SANA THERAN
LONDON PARIS BONN ROME KHARTOUM MOSCOW ISLAMABAD DAR ES SALAAM
HAVANA LAGOS USUN USNATO 12 MAR 78

QUOTE

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0501

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, SO, ET, UR

SUBJ: SIAD ASSERTS WITHDRAWAL PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY; REJECTS US
MILITARY ATTACHE

REF: STATE 063461

1. PRESIDENT SIAD RECEIVED ME THIS AFTERNOON, MARCH 12, AT 1230Z
AND I WENT OVER CAREFULLY WITH HIM THE POINTS OF REFTEL. HE
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RESPONDED POINT BY POINT AS FOLLOWS:

(1) WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES: ALL SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY UNITS
HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS TO WITHDRAW, AND ON BALANCE THE WITH-
DRAWAL IS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. UNITS IN THE NORTH ARE BEING
SUBJECTED TO SOME BOMBARDMENT IN THE FRONTIER AREAS. IT IS NOT
CLEAR YET WHETHER THIS IS THE PRELIMINARY TO A FURTHER MECHANIZED

ATTACK WHICH WE COULD NOT SUCCESSFULLY RESIST, BUT IT MAY NOT BE SINCE THE BOMBARDMENT IS RATHER DESULTORY. IN THE CENTER THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS HAVE SLOWED THEIR DRIVE AFTER TAKING DAGABUR. UNITS IN THE SOUTH CONSEQUENTLY ARE HAVING NO PROBLEM EXFILTRATING THEMSELVES. NO ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED OF THE KENYANS OR ANYONE ELSE TO BRING THESE FORCES OUT. THEY ARE MOVING BACK WITH THEIR EQUIPMENT IN TACT.

(2) RESISTANCE BY GUERRILLA UNITS: THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT HAS NO AUTHORITY OVER THE "LIBERATION FORCES" WHICH REMAIN BEHIND IN THE OGADEN. IF ATTACKED THEY WILL FIGHT, BUT THEY WILL ALSO KNOW HOW TO KEEP OUT OF THE WAY OF THE MECHANIZED FORCES. THEY HAVE NO FEAR OF THE ETHIOPIANS, AND NO FEAR OF RE-TRIBUTION. SOMALIA HAS ALWAYS RESPECTED DJIBOUTI.

(3) US MILITARY ATTACHE: SINCE THERE APPEARS TO BE NO DISPOSITION TO HELP SOMALIA IN A MILITARY WAY THERE IS REALLY NO NEED FOR A MILITARY ATTACHE.

(4) SELF DETERMINATION AND WITHDRAWAL: SOMALIA HOPES FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THERE WAS NEVER ANY EXPECTATION THAT THE ETHIOPIANS WOULD NOT ADD CONDITIONS. SELF DETERMINATION REMAINS THE GOAL OF THE WESTERN SOMALI PEOPLE. OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS REFLECT THIS TRUTH.

(5) WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS: NOW THAT THE SOVIETS,
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CUBANS, EAST GERMANS, AND SOUTH YEMENIS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THEIR PURPOSE, THERE IS NO REASON FOR THEM TO STAY. MIND YOU, I DO NOT THINK THEY WILL LEAVE. THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION IF THEY WERE TO STAY ON AS TEACHERS AND ECONOMIC EXPERTS, BUT PERHAPS THEY HAVE OTHER THINGS IN MIND.

2. IN NO HURRY TO END THE SESSION, SIAD THEN TURNED TO OTHER TOPICS. HE SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE UNITED STATES PROCLIVITY TO ADD CONDITIONS IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. YOU ASKED US TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OGADEN, HE SAID, AND WE AGREED. THEN YOU ANNOUNCE THAT NO HELP WILL BE GIVEN TO SOMALI UNLESS IT MAKES A NEW COMMITMENT TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA AND KENYA. AMERICAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HE SAID, HAVE FOLLOWED ME LIKE A SHADOW WHEREVER I WENT SEEKING ASSISTANCE. YOUR AMBASSADOR WAS ALWAYS ON THE SCENE BEFORE ME TO REMIND MY HOST THAT HE COULD NOT GIVE SOMALIA ANY ASSISTANCE WITHOUT FUS APPROVAL, AND THE INEVITABLE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ALWAYS CAME FROM WASHINGTON. SIAD OBSERVED HE FELT THE US DID NOT REALLY WANT SOMALI FRIENDSHIP, ALTHOUGH HE STILL HAD HOPES AND WANTED TO BELIEVE THAT CONCLUSION ERRONEOUS. I REMINDED SIAD THAT THE US HAS MANIFESTED ITS FRIENDSHIP IN PRACTICAL WAYS THAT WE WERE A GOVERNMENT OF LAWS WHICH MUST BE FOLLOWED, AND THAT ANY ARMS TRANSFERS WOULD HAVE THE

SAME EFFECT AS OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS INDICATED. I SAID I HAD SOUGHT FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON OUR ARMS POLICY (MOGADISCIO 0479), AND STRESSED THAT WE HAD TAKEN IMMEDIATE DIPLOMATIC STEPS TO FACILITATE THE WITHDRAWAL OF HIS ARMY IN THE OGADEN AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IN THE AREA.

3. SIAD SAID HE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT OBSERVERS IN THE OGADEN, OR UN ACTION. IF THE SOVIETS WITHDREW, HE SAID, SOMALIA WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS. IF IT WERE NECESSARY FOR HIM TO STEP DOWN IN THE INTEREST OF SOMALIA, HE WOULD DO THAT TOO. BUT NO ONE SHOULD DOUBT THE UNITY OF SOMALIA, HE SAID, AND WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME, NEEDS MY BLESSINGS AND SUPPORT. THE PEOPLE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A FEW COMMUNISTS, WILL FOLLOW THE MAN I DESIGNATE.

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4. COMMENT: THE SOMALI LEADER WAS RELAXED THROUGHOUT THE HOUR AND A HALF MEETING IN HIS GARDEN. HE REPEATED MANY OF THE FAMILIAR POINTS HE HAS MADE ABOUT SOVIET DESIGNS AND AMERICAN INDIFFERENCE, BUT WITH NO PARTICULAR VEHEMENCE. HE SEEMED GENUINELY PERPLEXED THAT WE HAD FAILED TO RESPOND TO HIS AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW, BUT HIS MOOD WAS MUCH MORE OF RESIGNATION THAN ANGER. HE WAS, HOWEVER, IMPERVIOUS TO ARGUMENTS THAT CERTAIN STEPS PROPOSED--THE ASSIGNMENT OF A MILITARY ATTACHE TO SOMALIA--AND OTHER MEASURES WERE LOGICAL FORERUNNERS OF ANY COOPERATION AND AS MUCH IN SOMALIA'S INTEREST AS OUR OWN.

LOUGHRAN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY ATTACHES, MUTUAL FORCE WITHDRAWALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE063497
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TMARTIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780111-0035
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780378/aaaacsnsz.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a75e74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 63461
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3358088
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIAD ASSERTS WITHDRAWAL PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY; REJECTS US MILITARY ATTACHE
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, SO, ET, UR
To: LIBREVILLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a75e74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014